

Approved August 10, 2000

Charter: Providing for the Establishment of the Indiana Geographic Information Council

WHEREAS, in the past decade governmental agencies, educational institutions and private industry have developed increasingly powerful computer systems designed to process and analyze map and other spatial information, collectively called geographic information system (GIS) technology; and

WHEREAS, geographic information system technology can be used strategically as a decision making tool in such areas not limited to: air resources, agricultural resources, commerce, cultural resources, education, environmental management, facility siting, forestry, geology, health, land resources, natural resources, local government, planning, public safety, social services, taxation and revenue, transportation, utilities, waste management, water resources, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, investment in geographic data, geographic information system technologies, and education and training are necessary to make effective use of such data and information; and

WHEREAS, increasingly complex decisions, overlapping responsibilities, and limited financial resources demand the statewide coordination of investments, practices and policies related to geographic data and geographic information system technologies to enhance the sharing and stewardship of geographic data, to minimize duplication of effort and public expenditures, and to increase the competitiveness of the State; and

WHEREAS, increased and continued cooperation among State and local government and the statewide geographic information systems community is desirable and critical for data sharing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, there are several published Indiana studies that have identified as a priority the need for establishment of a statewide coordinating body in the form of a coordinating council; and

WHEREAS, an officially designated organization can most strongly represent Indiana's interests in communications and discussions with Federal agencies regarding spatial data, spatial data exchanges, spatial data standards and other important issues; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana GIS Initiative is actively engaged in statewide coordination efforts and project development and geographic data; and

The Indiana Geographic Information Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council shall provide for coordination of Indiana geographic information systems through

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dissemination of data and data products, education and outreach, building partnerships, and adoption of standards.

1) And be it further resolved that:

- (a) The Council shall, as its first order of business, ratify its By-laws and Charter; and be it further
- (b) The Council shall establish a strategic management plan to guide the development and implementation of geographic information systems technology for the best value and benefit of the citizens of Indiana and update the plan biennially; and be it further
- (c) The Council shall establish a plan to guide the development and implementation of a statewide geographic data sharing cooperative; and be it further
- (d) The Council shall develop and recommend policies, standards, guidelines and strategies which emphasize cooperation and coordination among the Indiana GIS users community, Federal agencies, and other states developing and implementing geographic information systems in order to maximize the value and cost effectiveness of geographic data and technologies, and avoid redundant activities; and be it further
- (e) The Council shall provide support and operate in an advisory capacity and will not supercede those organizations internal policies.
- (f) The Council can receive grants, contracts, appropriations, in-kind assistance, and/or gifts from governmental agencies, corporations, for-profit or not-for-profit, or associations; and be it further
- (g) The Council shall provide assistance with disputes among geographic information systems partners; and be it further
- (h) The Council shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the State Chief Information Officer not later than August 30, this report to address the following:
 - a. The first report shall include the requirements, goals and an implementation plan for the coordination and development of a statewide geographic information infrastructure; and be it further
 - b. Annual reports shall regularly include the status of coordination of Indiana geographic information systems through dissemination of data and data products, education and outreach, building partnerships, and adoption of standards;
- (i) The Council will accomplish its mission through regularly scheduled Council meetings, and as necessary subcommittee and workgroup meetings.
- (j) The activities of the Council will be guided by all active Council By-laws.

(2) The Indiana Geographic Information Council shall coordinate its activities with those of any existing or future State and local government agency geographic information system coordinating office(s).

(3) The Council shall consist of no more than twenty five (25) members as follows:

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- (a) The Council shall vote through nominating process the offices of Chair, Vice-chair, and Treasurer as set out in its bylaws; and
- (b) The Secretary shall be a permanent standing member, filled by the Director of the State Office of Geographic Information Systems.
- (c) Council members should be senior or executive level and they, or their representative, should have an understanding of their organization's geographic informational resources and needs; and
- (d) Council membership will be structured to represent sectors of the Indiana geographic information systems community, and initial membership shall consist of the following representation:

GIS Community Sector

County Government (2)
Municipal Government (2)
State Government (2)
Federal Government (2)
Not-for Profit (2)
Commercial GIS Service Provider (2)
Regional GIS Consortia (2)
Private Industry (2)
Surveyors (2)
Universities (2)
Regional Planning Commissions (1)
Utilities (2)
Other (Any Sector or None) (2)

cc: File copy (M:\1051\COUNCIL\Council Docs\Indiana Council Charter Approved.doc)